



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 4th May 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Daily Liberal \(page 3\)](#)** reports that Macquarie Health Collective CEO and psychologist Tanya Forster has claimed that the founding of a UCC in Dubbo could pose significant risks to the GPs already in town, after Dubbo Regional Council unanimously voted in favour of mayor Joshua Black asking the federal government to establish a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC).
- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports claims that terminally ill patients are having to leave their aged care homes to undergo voluntary assisted dying in hospitals due to some facilities blocking access the scheme on site, with some doctors even saying they have been forced to assess patients in carparks after being barred from entering the premises.
- **[The Australian \(page 2\)](#)** reports researchers have proposed making GLP-1 weight-loss drugs more freely available to obese parents from Murdoch Children's Research Institute's Generation Victoria in-depth study as part of a strategy to tackle growing obesity rates among young people.
- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 10\)](#)** reports that a new program, MCRI, is bringing together two of the most in-depth studies of their kind: Generation Victoria (GenV), which involves 50,000 children, and also ORIGINS, which follows 10,000 children and their families in Western Australia.

- [Australian Financial Review \(page 33\)](#) reports that Compass Pathways, a British biotech, announced strong results in two late-stage trials showing that a synthetic form of psilocybin - the active compound in magic mushrooms - can rapidly relieve symptoms in patients with treatment-resistant depression.
- [The Herald Sun \(page 19\)](#) reports that Victoria Police has admitted it is still developing a replacement strategy on drugs for the next few years as illicit drug use in Victoria hit "confronting highs" in the past year, with cocaine and methylamphetamine consumption surging to the highest levels recorded.

MINISTER BUTLER

Backflip on aged care shows NDIS reform risks

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 04/05/2026, Johari Amar, Page 7

Within months, the federal government has found itself in the same position twice. In aged care, sweeping changes were announced, rolled out, and then quickly wound back after strong backlash from providers, families and older Australians. [...] Assistant Professor in Property at Bond University Dr Johari Amar brings a human-centric lens to housing and care, asking how places and properties can better serve vulnerable populations

Caption Text: Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Mark Butler, addresses the National Press Club of Australia to discuss the future of the NDIS.

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'Don't forget dementia care'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/05/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 14

Hundreds of Australians living with dementia remain stranded in public hospital beds due to a chronic shortage of aged care placements, as the federal government prepares to fund just 20 additional specialist units in the upcoming budget. Health ministers across the country have urged the Commonwealth not to overlook patients languishing in hospital limbo, warning the shortfall in dementia-specific care is choking the health system already. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment would deliver a "significant expansion of support" for people with high-level dementia.

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Calling in sick every month, Zoe worried she would lose her job

The Age, Other, 03/05/2026, Emily Kaine

Missing days of school and work for period pain that rendered her bedridden was a monthly occurrence for Zoe Kapolos, who was diagnosed with endometriosis at 19 years of age. She was plagued by anxiety when she had to take days off work every month to manage her pain. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has 90 days to respond to the proposal.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#).

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Federal Budget: Albanese locks in \$1.8bn to make Medicare Urgent Care Clinics permanent

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/05/2026, Madeleine Bower

Anthony Albanese will lock in \$1.8 billion in this month's budget to make Medicare Urgent Care Clinics permanent, in the hope it will relieve pressure on emergency departments. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the \$1.8 billion meant that urgent care clinics were "here to stay".

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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What are we here for? Anthony Albanese's Labor government faces the defining test of its appetite for reform

The night before Jim Chalmers addressed business economists in Melbourne to warn of the severe budget damage a prolonged war in the Middle East could cause, he fronted a very different crowd in Brisbane. The host of the 18 March event was the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, whose home in the central-west Queensland town of Barcaldine is considered the birthplace of the Labor party. [...]

The scale of victory entrenched Albanese as the most powerful modern Labor leader and solidified the influence of his inner circle, which includes Penny Wong, Mark Butler and Katy Gallagher.

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Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 03/05/2026, Alison Piotrowski and Michael Atkinson

Piotrowski and Atkinson are joined by Political Editor Charles Croucher. Croucher says they have seen one of the biggest savings in recent budget memory with the NDIS cutbacks that Federal Minister Mark Butler announced last week. He notes that there is an appetite to save in the upcoming federal budget.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Doctor urges second thought

Daily Liberal, General News, 04/05/2026, Dane Wilson, Page 3

While the community is crying out for a free medical centre, one of the region's doctors has suggested a clinic would negatively impact the practitioners the area already has. At their April 28, 2026, meeting, the Dubbo Regional Council unanimously voted in favour of mayor Joshua Black asking the federal government to establish a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Dubbo. [...] The Talbragar Street Dubbo Medicare Mental Health Centre was opened on September 30, 2025, with federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride describing that centre as "intended to bring support sooner, closer to home, and for free".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Push to keep young in work as welfare recipients near 1.4m

The number of working-age Australians relying on welfare payments has surged to almost 1.4 million, as the Albanese government manages an increasing share of young men and women who are considered unable to work. [...] "Our government takes seriously our role to support young men and does so through a range of portfolios including Australia's first ever Special Envoy for Men's Health (Dan Repacholi)," she said.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Labor to cut glut of public service jobs

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/05/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

The Albanese government is seeking voluntary redundancies from thousands of public servants after Labor went on a hiring spree that threatens to blow out the federal budget's \$31 billion wages bill.

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Paramedics accused of putting patients at risk as bitter pay dispute with government escalates

Herald Sun, Other, 03/05/2026, Sue Bailey

Paramedics have escalated industrial action over pay disputes, prompting Premier Jeremy Rockliff to slam the union for putting patient safety at risk through "irresponsible" tactics. As paramedics step up industrial action in a long-running battle for better pay and conditions, the Premier says it is "irresponsible" and puts patient safety at risk.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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'Tearing her skin apart': Sydney family among thousands priced out of life-changing medication

9News, Other, 03/05/2026, Tilli Andrew

Jade Hlucshniow was on the brink of selling her home to afford treatment for her daughter, whose debilitating skin condition had stolen much of her childhood. Ruby, age seven, suffered from eczema so painful that it consumed her family's life. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told nine.com.au that the pharmaceutical company responsible for dupilumab in Australia has not provided the required documentation for the PBS listing to progress.

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Protecting Australians' health and healthcare in a global crisis: what will it take?

Croakey, Other, 03/05/2026, Melissa Sweet

Australia needs to be prepared to engage with radical measures – such as transferring private health infrastructure to public systems, and providing guaranteed employment to health professionals now in the private sector – to address looming challenges caused by the global fuel crisis. [...] I have no doubt that emergency planners are working hard on some of these, and we know that the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's emergency response centre, the National Incident Centre, was activated on 23 rd March; but I'm also willing to take a punt that no one is looking at several of the other issues I will identify.

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[Back to Top](#)

Aged care hit for assisted dying cases

Age, General News, 04/05/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Terminally ill patients are having to leave their aged care homes to undergo voluntary assisted dying in hospitals because facilities won't allow them to access the scheme on site, while doctors say they have been forced to assess patients in carparks after being barred from entering the premises. In the past year, renal and general physician Margaret Fraenkel has treated two Melbourne patients who have been blocked from accessing voluntary assisted dying in their aged care homes.

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WWII warrior dead at 104

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/05/2026, Peter Jenkins, Page 17

Ron Leckie was the World War II veteran who flew almost 700 hours in combat and celebrated his birthday for more than a century on a date he forever treasured.

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Chronic underfunding of community services proves short on sound economic management for our state

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/05/2026, Adrienne Picone, Page 18

When crises hit, it is community services that hold Tasmania steady. As families grapple with the rising cost of living, fuel price shocks and growing uncertainty, demand for community services surges.

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Navigating the complex aged care system

Canberra Times, Business News, 04/05/2026, Noel Whittaker, Page 13

Aged care is fast becoming one of Australia's biggest industries, with an annual budget topping \$50 billion. The scale of the challenge was laid bare last week, with the Federal government set to spend \$1 billion just to fund basic support like showering, dressing and continence care.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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WA elderly VAD access fail

West Australian, General News, 04/05/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 10

Most aged-care providers are making it difficult for elderly West Australians to access voluntary assisted dying, a report has revealed. Of the State's facilities featured in the Go Gentle Australia findings, three in four had no public information available on end-of-life choices for patients or did not support accessing VAD onsite.

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Danger in doing 'the right thing' to pay for aged care

West Australian, Business News, 04/05/2026, Rowan Jones, Page 41

When a family member has to move into residential aged care, it can often be with little notice. The financial pressure on families can be immense, particularly with Refundable Accommodation Deposits often exceeding \$500,000.

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Regional clubs offer 'friends for life'

Canberra Times, General News, 04/05/2026, Ryan Bentley, Page 10

The number of sporting clubs in regional areas has long been in decline but with a new wave of young people moving away from the capitals, that could be about to change.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Western](#)

[Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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The investigation into police Taser safety

ABC Online, Other, 04/05/2026

The nation was shocked when 95-year-old Clare Nowland died after being tasered by a NSW police officer at an aged care facility in 2023. While police forces defend their policies and training, there are concerns that officers draw the weapon too quickly, not just when danger is imminent.

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National Disability Insurance Scheme reforms spark fears of repeating aged care failures

Adelaide Now, Other, 03/05/2026, Dr Johari Amar

NDIS participants risk being abandoned as the federal government speeds ahead with major changes before alternative supports are ready, warns Dr Johari Amar. Sky News host Chris Kenny reveals what should be implemented in NDIS reforms.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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How many steps you can take daily to meet Australia's physical activity guidelines

West Australian, Other, 03/05/2026, Claire Sadler

A person's age is the most important factor in how many steps they need to see physical and mental health benefits, according to experts. While it was originally thought that 10,000 steps a day was the golden number for everyone, how old they are plays a huge part in how far they should walk to meet daily activity guidelines.

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'The happiest time of life is as you get older': can positive thinking help you age better?

The Guardian, Other, 03/05/2026, Bianca Nogrady

By most standards, Prof Velandai Srikanth is at the peak of his career. He is the director of the National Centre for Healthy Ageing; his decades of highly regarded research has led to work being published in leading scientific journals; and he has been awarded funding from some of the world's biggest scientific funding bodies.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Restraining order: get a grip on debt

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 04/05/2026, Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Australia's biggest employers are pushing Anthony Albanese and Jim Chalmers to impose strict limits on spending, debt levels and the tax-to-GDP ratio, as the Treasurer promises to save more than he spends in next week's budget. The Albanese government is pledging to bank all windfall revenues in the May 12 budget, which is expected to impose sweeping tax changes to trusts, capital gains tax discounts and negative gearing.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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Reforms don't amount to a hill of beans

The Australian, General News, 04/05/2026, Chris Mitchell, Page 20

Many journalists and politicians misunderstand the point of economic reform. Reform should not be about fairness, intergenerational equity, social cohesion or getting back at "greedy multinationals".

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Chalmers promises to tighten the belt

West Australian, General News, 04/05/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 1

Jim Chalmers is pledging to save more than he spends in the Budget due in just over a week, as the Cabinet prepares to make the final decisions on its measures. The Treasurer says his "most responsible yet" Budget papers will show a net saving for the second time in a row with larger-than-usual cuts.

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NDIS commission bans pair of criminals

Border Mail, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 3

A former Border pair tied to drug dealing and a police shooting have been banned from providing any NDIS services or supports due to their criminal histories. Mistee Theresa Royal - a convicted large-scale Albury marijuana supplier who previously ran a Border dance studio - was hit with a ban commencing on April 28.

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NDIS changes are pushing families to breaking point

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/05/2026, Sarah Lowes, Page 25

The NDIS was always meant to be a promise not just of funding, but of dignity, choice and genuine inclusion. From where I stand, that promise feels increasingly strained.

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Bracing for 'serious' headwinds over NDIS

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/05/2026, Erin Blond, Page 6

In anticipation of looming NDIS reforms, Aruma hosted its inaugural 'Stronger Together' networking event, bringing the Toowoomba disability community together to navigate a shifting landscape. The free event on May 1 provided locals with direct access to NDIS experts, aiming to foster stronger relationships and a clearer understanding of local stakeholders.

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'The whole process for me was very daunting': mother shares struggle to get help for son

Canberra Times, Other, 03/05/2026, Lucinda Reilly

Under the sterile lights of the hospital room, surrounded by beeping monitors, Maria Jerez sat at the bedside of her youngest son Mateo. The hospital has become an all too familiar space for the mother and son, after a birth-related brain injury resulted in Mateo being diagnosed with severe cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other diagnoses.

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Healthy Strides Space age tech funded by Telethon and MinRes getting kids walking at 2026 Move-A-Thon

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 03/05/2026

Some used wheelchairs, others crutches or a walker, but however they took part everyone was proud as punch at the 2026 Healthy Strides Foundation Move-A-Thon, showing off the benefits of space-age tech funded by Telethon and Mineral Resources. About 400 people braved the chill to join the starting line at Elizabeth Baillie Park on Sunday morning.

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Services Australia truck in town

Shepparton News Online, Other, 03/05/2026

Services Australia's Mobile Service Centre Golden Wattle will be in Corowa and Howlong this week. The mobile service centre offers easy access to Medicare and Centrelink services and can provide information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Department of Veterans' Affairs services.

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The year that changed the shape of Albanese's agenda

ABC Online, Other, 03/05/2026, Clare Armstrong

One year ago, Anthony Albanese was a man on top of the world.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Parenting perils in full flight

West Australian, General News, 04/05/2026, Andrew Miller, Page 13

Haruki Murakami began his best-known novel by describing an introspective episode, triggered by the song of the title, Norwegian Wood. After his flight lands, the protagonist is overwhelmed when the nostalgic Beatles' tune comes over the public address system, reviving core memories from decades before.

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Allan government pumps \$135m into health system to tackle children's surgery waitlists

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/05/2026, Shannon Deery

The Allan government will inject almost \$135m into the state's struggling health system in a bid to fast-track treatment and decrease ballooning delays, with more than half of that investment to benefit children waiting too long for procedures. [more less Toggle full description view](#)

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Problems are mounting at Hunter hospitals. Can the Minns government fix them?

Newcastle Herald, Other, 03/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw

Troubles at the Hunter's three biggest public hospitals have put the performance of the Minns government under heavy scrutiny. When NSW Premier Chris Minns was in Newcastle this week, he was asked about the problems at John Hunter Calvary Mater and Maitland hospitals

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

How weight-loss drugs could ease child obesity crisis

The Australian, General News, 04/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 2

Obese parents could be offered modern weight-loss drugs to improve not only their health, but also to test if it can help prevent childhood obesity. In a world-first, researchers want to see if making GLP-1 weight-loss drugs more freely available to parents can reshape a household's food habits and curb the growing children's weight crisis in Australia.

Full of drugs with no plan

Herald Sun, General News, 04/05/2026, Alex White, Page 19

Victoria is grappling with record drug use without a longterm police strategy to combat the crisis, after the force's plan expired at the end of last year. The policy vacuum has left the state vulnerable at a critical time, with new wastewater testing revealing "confronting" highs in drug consumption across Victoria as police work behind closed doors to develop a replacement approach.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Hype added to vape market

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/05/2026, Jon Kaila, Page 3

Chinese government-backed cigarette brand Double Happiness is flooding Australia with its illicit products, taking advantage of the Strait of Hormuz being shut. Owned by Shanghai Tobacco Group a subsidiary of state-owned China Tobacco Double Happiness has even created a new vape, Hype, that can be purchased in South Australia and online.

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They're our kids and our future

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 6

Top doctors have warned the future of Australian children is at a critical crossroads and in dire need of world-leading medical research to reverse a situation where an entire generation's health is now, for the first time, worse than their parents. Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) is launching a bold plan today to see if the key is managing weight, sleep, movement and blood pressure.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Extra sleep may be the key to children's health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 8

A world-first that will look at turning back the clock on bedtime to get kids to sleep a minimum of 30 minutes extra a night will be studied in Australian kids to see if it can help with their heart health.

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Build a healthier future for an entire generation

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 04/05/2026, Page 20

It's of serious national concern that for the first time, a generation of children is growing up in worse health than their parents. The Advertiser and our sister News Corp mastheads today unite with a clear and urgent warning action must be taken now to tackle critical issues like obesity, heart health and sleep deprivation in our children.

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Nothing more critical than our kids' health

Courier Mail, Editorials, 04/05/2026, Page 20

All Australians would believe that every generation should build on the strengths of the one that came before them. That is why research that points to the reality that kids are facing worse health outcomes than their parents is worrying.

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It's no better than the 80s

In almost every area of medicine, Australians are better off than they were 40 years ago, but not if they have asthma. Australia is still treating the disease the way it did in the 1980s and people are dying because of it, the George Institute for Global Health says.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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Unique study of next gen of Aussies

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 10

As a nurse, Megan Lampard understands the importance of data collection for improving clinical practice and how research helps determine best practice for patients. As a mum of three active boys, she appreciates how research helps families in practical ways like improving what they are doing in the home, at school and with sports.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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Vital work for healthier kids

Herald Sun, Editorials, 04/05/2026, Page 24

For the first time, a generation of children face worse health outcomes than their parents. Unless urgent action is taken now especially in terms of obesity and cardiovascular health it will be a disturbing backwards step in a nation that should pride itself on strides forward for healthier lives, especially for new and coming generations.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#)

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For our kids

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 20

It is essential that critical research in the future health of our children is funded. It's a cliché but the children are our future.

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Our kids, our future

Herald Sun, General News, 04/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Top doctors have warned the future of Australian children is at a critical crossroads and in dire need of worldleading medical research to reverse a situation where an entire generation's health is now, for the first time, worse than their parents. With shocking statistics showing high blood pressure rates have doubled in children in just two decades, one in four kids are now obese or overweight and young people are sleeping less than ever before, they say now is the time to act.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Inside the bold MCRI plan to help Australian children's health

The Australian, Other, 04/05/2026, Robyn Riley

Meet 40 Aussie children and teens who have shown remarkable bravery and resilience. They all have been helped or have hope for the same reason.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#)

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Scientists have been testing our wastewater. Here's what it tells us about WA's drug use

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/05/2026

Western Australia's regions continue to lead the nation for methamphetamine consumption, according to new data gathered through a long-running wastewater monitoring program. However, there are few surprises in the latest report from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, despite "record high" consumption of meth, cocaine and heroin recorded in the analysis.

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Hundreds of women told us about their struggle with this condition. Would leave from work help?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/05/2026

Last year, the Herald set out to collect women's experiences of "medical misogyny": the phenomenon whereby women are consciously or unconsciously treated differently in the health system, due to a historical lack of research on women's health conditions and practitioner bias. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that one in seven Australian women suffers from endometriosis, while one in five has adenomyosis.

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Surge in bootleg booze sparks fears of a new frontier for crims

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/05/2026, Aris Schuler-Shah

Industry experts and police have warned that potentially deadly illicit spirits are being found in suburban bottle shops across Melbourne, putting lives at risk and prompting fears that illegal booze may be a new frontier for crims. [more less Toggle full description view](#)

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How a Ballarat boxing program is helping survivors rewrite their stories

Ballarat Courier, Other, 03/05/2026, Michelle Smith

Ballarat survivors of sexual abuse and gendered violence are taking part in a clinical trial to see whether boxing combined with expressive writing can help their recovery and wellbeing. The Left Write Hook program has run in Ballarat previously, but organisers jumped at the chance to be part of a clinical trial to help build evidence of the benefits of the program.

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Demands grow for Albanese government to 'get real' on illicit tobacco trade funding 'crime gangs and terrorists'

Sky News Australia, Other, 03/05/2026, Patrick Hannaford

Calls are growing for the Albanese government to "get real" in its fight against Australia's illicit tobacco industry, with warnings law enforcement alone will not be able to stop "crime gangs and terrorists" raking in \$6.9 billion in profits. Calls are growing for the Albanese government to "get real" in its fight against Australia's illicit tobacco industry by cutting the tobacco excise.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Brain scans put more extreme ADHD in focus

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 32

The classic image of a child with ADHD is practically a stock character: the spacey kid staring out the window; the fidgeter who [...]

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Does dry needling really relieve pain?

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 32

Over the past decade, a strange practice has worked its way into physical therapy offices.

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'If we'd known, my son would still be here today'

Age, General News, 04/05/2026, Adam Hegarty and Anne Worthington, Page 16

When he was 16, Jeremy Webb went on a camping trip with friends. They ate sausages and marshmallows.

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Sunflower festival brings joy of colour

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/05/2026, Elodie Jakes, Page 6

A sold-out Scenic Rim festival welcomed thousands from across the country to marvel at a stunning sunflower display while raising funds for a crucial cause. The Kalbar Sunflower festival, 40 kilometres south of Ipswich, kicked off on Friday with flower-lovers of all ages relishing in the more than one-million strong sunflower field.

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'There is hope': New father in fight for life

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 04/05/2026, Cameron Bates, Page 12

A courageous Townsville man says he is determined to fight back against a horror cancer diagnosis for the sake of his partner and one-year-old son. Rikky Cain, speaking after undergoing chemotherapy and immunotherapy in Brisbane, said he was up for the battle with what he had been told was a terminal condition.

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Pain and loss

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 18

Cancer is a tragic disease that's taken far too many lives in our community

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Radio star James Valentine shares what he learnt in his 'year of living gratefully'

ABC Online, Other, 03/05/2026, By Leisa Scott and Rebecca Latham

James Valentine knew he was dying but he knew something else with equal clarity: he didn't want to die angry. The radio presenter and jazz saxophonist who surrounded himself with music, laughter, and good times throughout his life knew that a Dylan Thomas-style "rage against the dying of the light" was not for him.

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Mother's warning over common virus that left her daughter deaf

Adelaide Now, Other, 03/05/2026, Robyn Riley

Nara Fry was born profoundly deaf in one ear from a common type of herpes virus that is passed from mum to baby during pregnancy. Many don't know about it.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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2GB, Healthy Living, 03/05/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with Medical Oncologist Dr Nick Zdenkowski, on the launching of the ROSALIE clinical trial. Zdenkowski says they are currently working with a Canadian group on the trial that aims to see

whether there are HER2 and T1-3 N0 patients who can be carefully selected and who can safely avoid radiotherapy to the breast after they have had surgery. He also states that they are focusing on patients who are most likely to have cancer eradication because they are the ones who are most likely to benefit.

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2GB, Weekends, 03/05/2026, Luke Grant

Grant says new research has revealed that those who eat an egg twice a week may be at a lower risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease, and the risk could be even less if they eat five eggs a week. He notes that dementia has become the leading cause of death across Australia, but the latest research is good news because Australians consume 260 eggs each year.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Psychedelic drug takes on depression

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/05/2026, Page 33

A synthetic form of psilocybin, the active compound in magic mushrooms, delivered strong results in late-stage clinical trials.

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Get help from humans

Daily Liberal, General News, 04/05/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 1

Mental health experts are concerned about the increase in young people turning to artificial intelligence to access advice. The NSW Youth Week 2026 Polling Report found 24 per cent of young people are using AI for mental health support. It was higher in regional areas where 30 per cent said they used it for mental health information compared to 21 per cent in metro areas.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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No topic is off limits as hair dressers become 'pseudo therapists'

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 03/05/2026, Rhianna Mitchell

Britt Zinn has heard it all in her 20 years as a hairdresser. From dating stories to relationship breakdowns, family drama and health issues, nothing is off the table when some of her loyal, long-time clients are in the chair.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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'The happiest time of life is as you get older': can positive thinking help you age better?

The Guardian, Other, 03/05/2026, Bianca Nogrady

By most standards, Prof Velandai Srikanth is at the peak of his career. He is the director of the National Centre for Healthy Ageing; his decades of highly regarded research has led to work being published in leading scientific journals; and he has been awarded funding from some of the world's biggest scientific funding bodies.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

2GB, Healthy Living, 03/05/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with Lung Foundation Australia Chair and University of Sydney Clinical Professor Lucy Morgan, on the Australian Government's addition of the RSV vaccine to the National Immunisation Program from 15 May. Morgan says older people are very prone to catching RSV, and it can lead to hospitalisation or even death, but the risks can be avoided because the free RSV vaccines will now be available for Australians over 75 or First Nations people over 60 under the National Immunisation Program. She also says she strongly believes that RSV can be safely administered at the same time as influenza, and having two vaccines at once is safe.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Public service faces jobs cull

Australian Financial Review, Wrap, 04/05/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

The Albanese government is seeking voluntary redundancies from thousands of public servants after Labor went on a hiring spree that threatens to blow out the federal budget's \$31 billion wages bill.

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Why a five-year-old's death must change the conversation on Indigenous disadvantage

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/05/2026, Peta Credlin

While cities welcome visitors to "Gadigal country", a little girl's death reveals the devastating truth about life in remote Australia, writes Peta Credlin. Sky News host Peta Credlin reflects on the tragic death of a Northern Territory girl.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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North Aboriginal Justice Agency CEO accuses NT government of long term detention in watchhouses

SBS, Other, 03/05/2026

The Northern Territory justice system is under fresh scrutiny amid allegations people are being held in overcrowded cells for long periods of time without adequate healthcare in a Darwin correctional facility. A spokesperson for the Department of Corrections has said in a statement that the Darwin Transitional Custody Centre accommodates prisoners for a maximum of four weeks.

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[Back to Top](#)

Collapse floors staff

Cairns Post, General News, 04/05/2026, Samuel Davis, Page 13

A Far North hospital's ageing airconditioning system is being blamed for a trolley carrying an X-ray machine collapsing through its floor, exposing serious structural issues less than two years on from a \$55m redevelopment. Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service confirmed that a wheel on the trolley supporting the imaging device fell through the vinyl and plywood flooring at Thursday Island Hospital on Sunday, April 26.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Trip back to bub's plane birth

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/05/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 8

The story of a baby girl being born on a CareFlight aircraft in Darwin after crew ran out of time to transport the labouring mum to hospital is being shared to mark International Day of the Midwife. Earlier this year, CareFlight was asked to retrieve an expectant mum from Borroloola after she went into labour and needed specialist care.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Annastacia Palaszczuk's boyfriend to face review of his medical registration after he was accused of raping a woman at \$6.2M apartment

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/05/2026, Maisy Rae

Dr Reza Adib's medical registration will face a review after he was charged with raping a woman at his luxury Gold Coast apartment. The partner of former Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was charged with three counts of rape, two counts of deprivation of liberty and one count of sexual assault on Friday.

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His final shift was with his son, but his 50-year career started by accident

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 03/05/2026

After half a century of saving lives - rushing towards the chaos while most ran from it - a beloved and respected Riverina paramedic spent his last day in uniform working alongside his son. As though the role was meant for him, former Young ambulance inspector of 15 years Stephen Pollard, quite literally stumbled into the profession as a 22-year-old.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 03/05/2026, Narelda Jacobs

Illegal and unregulated peptides are loudly being promoted all over social media, contributing to a boom on the black market, and the Therapeutic Goods Administration is urging consumers to be extremely cautious. The TGA says it is the responsibility of social media companies to remove such content, while Meta and TikTok are urging people to report videos that breach community guidelines.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

A miracle drug or a toxic fake

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/05/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson and Sarah Booth, Page 15

Doctors say they are alarmed by the number of patients they see injecting themselves with an experimental weight-loss drug being sold on unregulated peptide websites. TikTok is filled with videos promoting links to websites and online messaging platforms selling vials of "retatrutide", but experts warn it is likely to be fake and possibly toxic.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Fish-eaters warned as poison cases rise

Cairns Post, General News, 04/05/2026, Greg McLean, Page 3

Health authorities have warned Cassowary Coast residents and visitors to be wary of eating large reef fish after several reported cases of ciguatera poisoning. Cairns Public Health Unit has received several reports of ciguatera poisoning from the Cassowary Coast region.

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